

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A washing method comprising:

a nonaqueous washing process of washing an object to be washed using a nonaqueous solution;

an intermediate washing process of washing the object to be washed using alcohol a ~~solution having solubility relative to both an aqueous solution and the nonaqueous solution~~ after said nonaqueous washing process; and

an aqueous washing process of washing the object to be washed with the aqueous solution after said intermediate washing process.

2. (Withdrawn) A washing method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a drying process of drying the object to be washed between said nonaqueous washing process and said intermediate washing process.

3. (Withdrawn) A washing method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the drying process is performed by using a vapor of the solution having solubility relative to both an aqueous solution and the nonaqueous solution.

4. (Previously Presented) The washing method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a drying process of drying the object to be washed between said intermediate washing process and said aqueous washing process.

5. (Currently Amended) The washing method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the drying process is performed by using a vapor of alcohol ~~the solution having solubility relative to both an aqueous solution and the nonaqueous solution.~~

6. (Previously Presented) The washing method as claimed claim 1, wherein a nonaqueous solution used in the nonaqueous washing process is a hydrocarbon solution.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The washing method as claimed in ~~7~~ 1, wherein said alcohol ~~the solution~~ used in the intermediate washing process is isopropyl alcohol.

9. (Withdrawn) A washing method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the hydrocarbon solution is ketone.

10. (Withdrawn) A washing method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the hydrocarbon solution is acetone.

11. (Previously Presented) The washing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ultrasonic vibration is applied during the washing performed in said nonaqueous washing process.

12. (Withdrawn) A washing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ultrasonic vibration is applied during the washing performed in said intermediate washing process.

13. (Withdrawn) A washing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ultrasonic vibration is applied during the washing performed in said aqueous washing process.

14. (Previously Presented) The washing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the object to be washed are optical components.

15. (Withdrawn) A washing method comprising:
a nonaqueous washing process of washing an object to be washed using a nonaqueous solution;
an intermediate washing and drying process of simultaneously washing and drying the object to be washed using a solution having solubility relative to both an aqueous solution and the nonaqueous solution after said nonaqueous washing process; and
an aqueous washing process of washing the object to be washed with the aqueous solution after said intermediate washing process.

16. (Withdrawn) A washing method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the intermediate washing and drying process is performed by using a vapor of the solution having solubility relative to both an aqueous solution and the nonaqueous solution.

17. (Withdrawn) A washing method as claimed claim 15, wherein the solution having solubility relative to both an aqueous solution and the nonaqueous solution in the intermediate washing process is a hydrocarbon solution.

18. (Withdrawn) A washing method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the object to be washed are optical components.